



City of Chicago
Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor

Department of Law
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July 9, 2019

Matt Chapman
Via email at 76328-50050111@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Chapman,

On behalf of the City of Chicago Department of Law, I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request which was dated July 1, 2019 and received in our office on the same day. You requested:

Requesting a copy of all intergovernmental agreements.

Your request is unduly burdensome under Section 3(g) of FOIA. Section 3(g) of FOIA provides that "requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information."

In order to produce the records you seek, the Law Department would have to the search for all intergovernmental agreement ever going back in time to the founding of the City. This would involve searching multiple locations for these documents, and many of the intergovernmental agreement are stored off site at the Law Department's warehouses. The Law Department would have to search for these agreements manually as well because agreements from farther back in time are not organized by box number. Even for agreements entered into closer to the present, there are intergovernmental agreements in multiple divisions in the Law Department. Many of the more recent agreement are located off site at the warehouse, and the Law Department would need to recall boxes from our warehouse to search for these agreements. Because the request does not contain a timeframe, it is reasonable to expect that it would take scores of hours for the Law Department to find and produce all intergovernmental agreements in its possession.

It is necessary that your FOIA request be narrowed and clarified. If you would like assistance in narrowing your request, please contact me, and I will assist you. One reasonable way for you to narrow your FOIA request is to seek intergovernmental agreements from a narrower timeframe. Otherwise, for the reasons provided above, the Law Department is unable to respond to your FOIA request as currently drafted.

If you agree to narrow your request, you must submit a revised written request to my attention. The Law Department will take no further action or send you any further correspondence unless and until your current request is narrowed in writing. If we do not receive your narrowed request within fourteen calendar days of the date of this letter, your current request will be denied.

In the event that we do not receive a narrowed request and your current FOIA request is therefore denied, you have the right to have a denial reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, (877) 299-3642. You also have the right

to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Tom Skelton
FOIA Officer – Department of Law